

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /085 W

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R 171610Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1916

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: DGB HOSTS HUNGARIAN LABOR DELEGATION

1. THE DGB PROVIDED "RED CARPET TREATMENT" TO A FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE HUNGARIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (SZOT) HEADED BY SECRETARY GENERAL SANDOR GASPAR FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO 10. THE DGB, HOWEVER, AVOIDED ANY MAJOR PUBLICITY AND THERE WAS LITTLE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT. THE DGB COMMUNIQUE ON THE VISIT DATED SEPTEMBER 10 FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: A FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE HUNGARIAN TRADE UNIONS HEADED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE HUNGARIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (SZOT), SANDOR GASPAR, MET WITH THE DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD IN DUSSELDORF ON SEPTEMBER 10 TO DISCUSS DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS OF BILATERAL TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL RELATIONS AS A MAJOR SUBJECT. BOTH SIDES WERE SATISFIED WITH THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION AND EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR CONTACTS WILL CONTINUE. THE HUNGARIAN GUESTS INVITED THE DGB TO A VISIT IN THEIR COUNTRY.

THE DELEGATION, INVITED BY THE DGB TO VISIT THE FRG FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO 10, INTER ALIA PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING OF THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DGB'S HIGHEST BODY BETWEEN THE CONVENTIONS, IN DUSSELDORF LAST WEDNESDAY, HAD TALKS WITH STATE MINISTER HANS-JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON THE SAME DAY, AND VISITED A MAJOR STEEL PLANT IN BOCHUM (KRUPP) AND THE TRAINING CENTER OF THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION IN SPROCKHOEVEL ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. GASPAR GAVE A LECTURE ON THE HUNGARIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TO STUDENTS OF THAT TRAINING CENTER.

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TER. UNQUOTE.

2. THE DGB WEEKLY WELT DER ARBEIT CARRIED AN IDENTICAL ACCOUNT ON THE VISIT IN ITS ISSUE OF SEPTEMBER 17.

3. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT GASPAR WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE HIGHEST DGB POLICY-MAKING BODY BETWEEN THE CONVEN-

TIONS, REPRESENTS AN EXTRAORDINARY HONOR. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY SIMILAR INVITATION EXTENDED TO ANY US OR OTHER WESTERN LABOR LEADER IN RECENT YEARS. THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE WHICH THE DGB ATTRIBUTED TO THIS VISIT IS ALSO UNDERLINED BY THE FACT THAT THE SPD STATE MINISTER IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, HANS-JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI, RECEIVED GASPAR FOR A CONVERSATION. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT GASPAR, ON THE OCCASION OF A DGB-HOSTED VISIT TO THE FRG IN 1972, WAS RECEIVED BY THEN CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT.

4. GASPAR'S VISIT WAS ALSO APPARENTLY THE REASON FOR DGB'S UNAVAILABILITY TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE FRG. DGB, WHILE NOT EXPLAINING THE REASON, HAD SIMPLY PLEADED PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS, BUT DID OFFER TO MEET WITH THE AMBASSADOR AT ANOTHER, MORE CONVENIENT TIME.
HILLENBRAND

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